

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-11 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. No changes to the claims are made herein.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fukui et al. (U.S. Patent 5,918,222). However, the present invention is directed to “a voice processing device built into a robot,” including “wherein said robot takes actions corresponding to a reliability of the voice recognition results.” (Claims 1, 10, and 11) Figure 1 clearly shows an exemplary robot according to the present invention. Hence, the present invention requires a robot. Fukui is directed to voice processing for a computer interface. (See Figure 4) Applicants have thoroughly reviewed an Fukui and have been unable to find any mention of a robot, or applicability of Fukui to a robot. Accordingly, Fukui cannot meet the robot limitations recited in the present claims. For at least this reason, Fukui fails to anticipate the present invention and the rejected claims should be allowed.

The Examiner has reasserted the objection to use of the term “voice” recognition instead of “speech” recognition. After careful reconsideration, Applicants again respectfully disagree

for at least the following reasons. First, the term “voice” as used in the present invention is intended to include more than just “speech.” Specifically, as discussed on pages 23-25 of the specification and shown in Figure 8, the term “voice” recognition may include identification of the individual speaker (e.g. the robot could recognize the distinctive voice patterns of its owner), recognizing meanings based on intonation and pitch, and sounds other than words (e.g. the robot may be a dog whose voice response is a bark). Two, the term “speech” is used, when appropriate, throughout the specification to indicate a narrower form of recognition.

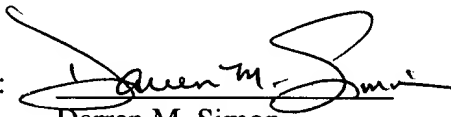
Accordingly, Applicants are aware of the different terminology and have consciously determined that voice recognition is appropriate in the instant case. Third, an applicant may be his own lexicographer as long as the chosen words are not repugnant to the commonly accepted usage. The term “voice recognition,” as used herein, is certainly within the accepted common usage. Therefore, Applicants believe the use of “voice” recognition is correct, and this objection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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